



# TOWN OF FREDERICK M E M O R A N D U M

## Police Department

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TO: Derek Todd, Town Administrator

FROM: Gary Barbour, Chief of Police

DATE:

**SUBJECT: Revisions to Animal Control Ordinance Section**

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In addition to specific changes to the animal control section of the municipal code, certain other related points were discussed at the Town Board meeting of December 12, 2009.

The fee for animal licenses will be \$15 for spayed/neutered and \$30 for unaltered effective December 21, 2009. In addition, we will continue to require that owners show proof of vaccination at the time of application for a license.

In reference to the penalties for offenses under this section, the municipal court assesses a fine of \$150 for a first offense. The fine for subsequent offenses is significantly higher. In addition to the fine, offenders whose animals have had to be impounded and transported to the shelter are required (through restitution) to pay all of the costs charged to the Town by the shelter. For example, a person whose dog was taken to the shelter would be fined \$150 and would have to pay \$125 for the shelter charge – a total of \$275 for a first offense. Discussion was had with the prosecutor for the court regarding the encouragement of neutering/spaying of animals. The prosecutor was amenable to the idea of offering a reduction of the fine in exchange for an owner getting their animal neutered/spayed. The Community Service Officers will have to document for the prosecutor those animals whose unaltered condition has been a factor, so that she will know when to pursue this.

Regarding abandoned or “owner unknown” animals or animals with young litters, it was suggested that the department might be able to use the services of a citizen who offered to foster these animals. We will pursue this option if and when the situation comes up. A meeting was held with the citizen who volunteered this assistance and it is understood that this depends on his schedule and availability at the time.

A question was raised about the “sharp edges or points” on the metal animal license tags. The tags are a standard item used by most jurisdictions and veterinary clinics in Colorado. They are available in a variety of shapes and colors. An effort is made each year to make sure that the succeeding tags differ in color/shape from the preceding ones. We are not aware of any animals that have been injured by the tags. Owners may, if they wish, use a file to round off any edge on the tag which is a concern.